

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING
JONESBORO

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2001

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Arkansas State University
Fowler Center, Riceland Hall
201 Olympic Drive
Jonesboro, Arkansas

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TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2001

2:20 p.m.

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SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Good afternoon. We are going to go ahead and get started. Before we do, I just want to convey a message from Governor Huckabee. As you may know, the First Lady had surgery yesterday, and they were going to get some lab results early this afternoon, and the Governor rightfully needed to be with Janet when all those results came in. So, he will be missing today -- he will be missing the hearing here and later today in Forrest City. He wanted us to convey his apologies, but felt that you would understand the reason that he was not here. And he wanted us to also let you all know how much the Huckabees appreciate your prayers at this time.

Mark and I, however, are here. So, we are going to go ahead. I am going to sort of act as the chair for this meeting, and Mark is

1 going to chair Forrest City. First let me tell
2 you, we are sorry that we are late. We had
3 intended to fly from Searcy to Jonesboro today.

4 Unfortunately, the plane, on its way to pick
5 us up in Searcy had engine trouble, and our
6 ride had already left, so we had to call our
7 ride back and get on the road. So, that has us
8 delayed, and we apologize for that. It was,
9 however, out of our control.

10 Let's see. Now, back into the meat
11 of what we are here for. We appreciate all of
12 you being here today, because we think that
13 this is a very important piece of democracy.
14 This is how you will be represented, not for
15 two years, not for four years, but for ten
16 years. And we want you to look at the plan in
17 terms of -- in terms of how your community is
18 best going to be served over that ten-year
19 period. That, we think, is critical to making
20 this work. It is critical to the one person,
21 one vote process.

22 We had a very good census last year.
23 In fact, our growth was almost 14 percent,
24 which was way more than was anticipated.
25 I think we anticipated an eight percent growth,

1 and we ended up at 13.7. Now, that is very,
2 very good in terms of turn-back funds, and we
3 can all appreciate the financial benefits of
4 having a good census. It also, on the other
5 hand, created some challenges for
6 redistricting.

7 And those challenges came because
8 the ideal Senate district now has grown
9 by about 9,300 people, and the ideal House
10 district has grown by about 3,200 people. So,
11 that does create some challenges for
12 us, particularly if you are in an area
13 where you have grown, but the counties
14 surrounding you have lost population.
15 That creates a major challenge.

16 The other thing we want to do is, we want
17 to -- I want to make sure that the staff is
18 thanked. They have done a tremendous job. If
19 the Governor were here, he would tell you they
20 have worked hundreds and hundreds, maybe
21 thousands of hours trying to draw a draft plan
22 for us. They are Butch Reeves from the
23 Governor's staff, Tim Humphries from the
24 Secretary of State's staff, he is over there,
25 and Larry Crane, I think, is back here

1 operating the computer, and he is from Mark's
2 staff in the Attorney General's office.

3 And there are -- there have been others
4 who have worked with them. As these plans were
5 drawn, they were there together working on
6 those plans to make sure that everybody knew
7 what was going on. So, I think it was a very
8 fair process. And the draft plan that you see
9 is just a draft. I want you to understand that
10 these lines are not cast in stone. They can be
11 changed, and they will be changed. We are
12 hearing things as we have been through other
13 cities. We have been to Fort Smith, to
14 Fayetteville, to Mountain Home, and this
15 morning in Beebe.

16 And as we continue through these, we will
17 hear other ideas. We don't claim to have a
18 monopoly on good ideas, and we are certainly
19 willing to hear what you have to say and see if
20 there is a way that we can please you. Which
21 leads me to my final comment, which is, we are
22 all elected officials, it is our goal to make
23 you happy, not the other way around. We are
24 not looking for ways to upset people. We are
25 trying our very best to please as many people

1 in this process as we possibly can.

2 It is a challenge. I am sure that
3 somebody is going to feel that they didn't get
4 all that they wanted. But I think in a process
5 such as this, there will be people -- probably
6 nobody will feel that they got everything that
7 they wanted. It can't be done the same as it
8 was in the past, because of the growth. So,
9 please keep in mind, we are trying to please
10 you. We do want this plan to work for you for
11 a ten-year period. And we want you to be happy
12 with it. General Pryor?

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.
14 I want to thank you all for being here,
15 and as Sharon says, this is an exercise in
16 democracy. And it is one of the things
17 that makes this country great, is we get input
18 into how our state House and Senate seats will
19 look and how our districts will look. And we
20 have worked very, very hard. The staff, Sharon
21 mentioned the staff, we need to take our hats
22 off to them, because they have met for hundreds
23 of hours. And we have had -- I know I
24 personally had hundreds of phone calls and
25 meetings and read letters and E-mail and faxes

1 and whatever else may be trying to incorporate
2 people's ideas on how your House and Senate
3 districts look.

4 And as part of that, you know, we
5 always try to keep an open door, always try to
6 be receptive when the phone rings. But as part
7 of that, maybe one day I had had a little too
8 much input, if you will, and so, I decided --
9 Claud and Tim, I decided to play a joke on one
10 of your colleagues. And so, I called him up
11 one day and I said, "Senator," I said, "I have
12 got some bad news." He said, "What is that?" I
13 said, "We have eliminated your Senate
14 district."

15 He said, "What?" I said, "Yeah. We have
16 eliminated your Senate district. And what
17 happened is, your neighbor from the east came
18 in and he sort of made his pitch, and so, we
19 gave him half your district. And your neighbor
20 from the west came in and he made his pitch,
21 and we gave him the other half of the
22 district."

23 And he said, "Mark," he said, "let
24 me tell you about those two guys." He
25 said, "My neighbor to the east," he said, "he

1 is a shyster, and his dad before him was a
2 shyster. And my neighbor to the west," he
3 said, "he never goes to any of the meetings,
4 the only reason he is in the Senate is to line
5 his own pockets."

6 And I said, "Wait a minute, Senator, wait
7 a minute." I said, "I was just kidding, I was
8 just kidding. We have redrawn your district,
9 it looks fine, you ought to be very, very happy
10 with it." He said, "Mark," he said, "how could
11 you make me say that about two of the dearest
12 friends a man ever had?"

13 But that is kind of how the process works.

14 It is emotional, and that is okay, it should
15 be, because it is about your representation.
16 And we just appreciate you all being here. We
17 are here to listen. I think Sharon mentioned
18 three or four times, really, that these are
19 drafts, that there is a process. And Butch is
20 going to explain the process a little better in
21 a minute. But these are drafts.

22 And the idea is to at least get something
23 on paper in draft form and then go out around
24 the state. We are going to have a grand total
25 of 11 of these type meetings all around the

1 state. And we are going to sit down with folks
2 and listen to people and try to, again,
3 incorporate their ideas and their thoughts on
4 how the districts ought to look. And then, as
5 Butch will say, around Labor Day, we hope to
6 finalize the work of the Apportionment
7 Board and be done with it.

8 And let me say one last thing. You
9 all are witnessing a little bit of American
10 political and governmental history here.
11 Arkansas is the only state in the union that
12 does apportionment like this. Every other
13 state, maybe the legislature does it or they
14 have a special commission, or who knows what, a
15 lot of states, probably the courts end up doing
16 it. But in Arkansas, we have the Apportionment
17 Board.

18 And it makes sense. You have the
19 Governor, who is the chief executive officer,
20 you have the Secretary of State, who is the
21 chief elections officer, and the Attorney
22 General, who is the chief legal officer. And
23 we all get together every ten years and try to
24 be fair and do this thing right, and that is
25 what we are trying to do this year.

1 So, I just want to thank you all for being
2 here. And I will turn it back over to Sharon.

3 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Thank
4 you, Mark. You will see that there is a
5 microphone on either side of the auditorium. I
6 would ask you to please to go to the
7 microphone, identify yourself, because we do
8 have a court reporter who is keeping track
9 verbatim of all of everything that is said.
10 So, please come to the microphone, identify
11 yourself, and let us know what -- where your
12 issues of concern are.

13 I would also ask you, in the interest
14 of your time, if you would line up. If you see
15 somebody is about ready to finish, get ready to
16 get over to the microphone. And with that, I
17 am going to turn it over to Butch Reeves, who
18 is chief legal counsel for the Governor's
19 office.

20 MR. OLAN REEVES: How do I get this
21 out? Thank you. I just want to tell you
22 a little bit about the process. Last fall, the
23 staff, we went to 13 places around the state,
24 we did this same kind of forum, we didn't have
25 a draft plan, we just wanted comments of what

1 certain counties wanted, certain cities, that
2 kind of thing. We got the draft numbers --
3 census numbers in March. By the third week of
4 April, we started with the computer software in
5 the Aegon Building. We have been there pretty
6 much ever since drawing plans. We have been to
7 civic clubs, we have heard from county judges,
8 we have heard from city people, we have heard
9 from all kinds of people, legislators,
10 metroplan. You name it, we have heard from
11 them. And so, the draft plans you see,
12 the Senate and House, are the results of
13 all that. And they are drafts, they are just
14 that.

15 Some requirements, the guidelines that we
16 used, the United States Constitution, federal
17 courts, say, required one person, one vote. In
18 order to do that, based on the current census
19 numbers, every House district should have
20 26,734 people in it, or as close to that as
21 possible, every Senate district should have
22 76,383 people, or as close to that as possible,
23 with a five percent variance above or below,
24 trying to get to those numbers.

25 The Arkansas Constitution simply requires

1 that the plan not be arbitrary. That means
2 guidelines. And the guidelines we used are
3 those approved by the U.S. Supreme Court and
4 other federal courts, but mainly the U.S.
5 Supreme Court, such as compaction, contiguity,
6 preservation of political subdivisions, cities
7 and counties as much as possible.

8 Also, preservations of communities
9 of interest, preservations of the cores
10 of existing districts, if possible, which would
11 include taking in consideration incumbents.
12 Compliance with Section Two of the Voting
13 Rights Act is also a consideration, which had
14 us think about those things when we drew the
15 plans. But the main thing we looked at was
16 the census numbers, trying to get those numbers
17 within the areas that we had to work with. So,
18 if a county lost population, their districts
19 had to get bigger land-wise. If a county or a
20 city gained population, theirs could get a
21 little smaller.

22 Term limits helped us square up some
23 of the Senate and House districts where
24 we could, but there were a lot of other
25 considerations. So, in looking at isolation in

1 your particular town or your particular county,
2 it may look very easy to present us with a plan
3 without worrying about, you know, the counties
4 to the north, south, east, or west of you. We
5 had to take the whole state into consideration.

6 So, with that said, we would like to hear
7 your comments, the Board would like to hear
8 them. And the two microphones are set up,
9 please give your name and perhaps the town or
10 the county you are from, and if you represent a
11 group, like you are with, you know, the Chamber
12 of Commerce in a particular town and they have
13 sent you here, state that, too, because that
14 would be very helpful to us. Who wants to be
15 first?

16 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:
17 Everybody is happy, we can go home now.

18 MR. EDDIE JONES: I guess I will start.
19 Eddie Jones, treasurer in Randolph County, and
20 been there for 20 some-odd years, and here
21 talking for the elected officials in Randolph
22 County, mainly about the Senate district that
23 has been drafted for us, the new Senate
24 District Ten. Now, the House district, we are
25 fine with. The Senate district splits Randolph

1 County. And I don't want to be -- as I am not
2 up here to complain. I don't really like
3 complainers, so I am just going to expound on a
4 concern.

5 And that is the split of Randolph County,
6 and that is probably the most predominant voice
7 that you have of when someone has a complaint,
8 it is usually because their county has been
9 split, especially when you are talking about
10 small rural counties like we are. We had been
11 with the other counties there in the district,
12 Stone, Izard, Fulton, and Sharp. And now, the
13 eastern part of our county goes over into
14 Senate District 11.

15 Now, Lawrence County, which is right below
16 us, is also split. Now, they had been split
17 previously with a portion of the western part
18 of that county going into what is now Senate
19 District Ten. They are now kind of split down
20 the middle. We are split off the eastern edge,
21 or the eastern third or so of the county. And
22 we don't want to -- you know, it is not that we
23 want to complain, but when a small rural county
24 is divided like that, it diminishes and
25 dilutes. And we don't want to see that if it

1 can be helped.

2 Now, if my memory serves me right, in the
3 last census, Lawrence and Randolph County only
4 had a differential in population of about 400
5 people. And if one of those counties could go
6 wholly with District 11 and the other county
7 wholly with District Ten, I think, would serve
8 a much better purpose and would be better for
9 both counties. I think Lawrence County has
10 some representation here. There is several --
11 or four of us, from Randolph County today, but
12 if that could happen.

13 I notice the -- and I know there is
14 a certain amount that you are trying to reach,
15 you know, somewhere around that 76,000 mark in
16 each Senate district. It looks like both
17 Lawrence and Randolph County are in a minus
18 deviation at this point. And I think we
19 would -- and maybe you have looked at those
20 numbers already and it won't work. But if it
21 is anywhere within that legal deviation in
22 putting -- making those counties whole, putting
23 one of them in 11 and another one in Ten, that
24 would be much appreciated, and I think better
25 off for all of us.

1 And I think the more counties that we can
2 keep whole, the better off we are, and the
3 better representation we have, especially in
4 these small rural counties. Thank you.

5 MR. OLAN REEVES: Who is next?

6 MR. JOSH LONGMIRE: My name is Josh
7 Longmire, and I am one of the election
8 commissioners for Lawrence County. I am
9 speaking on behalf of the same issue, being
10 split right down the middle. Black River
11 is what the dividing point is right now. But
12 like he said, both counties, according to the
13 last census, are real similar and an equal
14 amount of citizens in each county. So, I am
15 agreeing, or speaking for Lawrence County, I
16 agree with the gentleman from Randolph County.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Let me ask
18 a followup on that, if I can. If we could make
19 those two counties whole, one of the counties
20 would go with Clay and Greene, the other would
21 go with Fulton, Izard, Sharp, and Stone. Do
22 you have a preference? You are from Lawrence
23 County. Do you have a preference on which of
24 those two Senate districts you would go into?
25 Does it matter?

1 MR. JOSH LONGMIRE: Well, if it was up to
2 me, my personal preference would be to go with
3 District Ten.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Which is the
5 western part?

6 MR. JOSH LONGMIRE: Right.

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. TIM WOOLDRIDGE: Good afternoon. I am
10 Tim Wooldridge, I represent what is
11 now District 30 in the Arkansas Senate,
12 and under the new proposal, we would be
13 District 11. I don't talk nearly as low
14 as Eddie Jones here, but you put the two of us
15 together, we would make a good base and tenor.

16 Any case, I am delighted to come, and the
17 people from Lawrence County had asked that I
18 come to you and say to you that, first of all,
19 I serve at the pleasure of the people and I
20 understand that, and I am flattered to have the
21 opportunity to serve in the Senate.

22 But also, I understand that the comments
23 of those from Randolph and those from Lawrence
24 County in that in terms of the unity and the
25 continuity of what -- you know, what they are

1 hoping to accomplish with the General Assembly,
2 that I think it would be in their best entity
3 to remain as, you know, complete in one Senate
4 district.

5 I am not authorized to speak on behalf of
6 Senator Miller, but he and I have discussed it,
7 and we both agree with the people in that area.

8 Senator Miller's district has included all of
9 Randolph County, the Senate district which I
10 represent has had that portion for years over
11 to Black River of Lawrence County. So, I have
12 a lot of ongoing project and interests in that
13 area, and would be honored and flattered to
14 serve the -- you know, the complete Lawrence
15 County in the Arkansas Senate. And I think
16 Senator Miller feels the same about Randolph
17 County. His district currently has all of
18 Randolph County.

19 We are not sure of the numbers, and we
20 understand that there are other requirements
21 and guidelines that you have to take into
22 account, but we did want to -- or I wanted to
23 let you know that I support those from Lawrence
24 County that want the entire county to be in one
25 Senate district. And I would be honored to

1 serve those people in the Senate. I will be
2 happy, if you have questions of me.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I don't
4 think so.

5 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: No,
6 thank you.

7 MR. JOSH LONGMIRE: Thank you.

8 MR. EDDIE JONES: If I may say one
9 other thing, I did talk to Senator Miller
10 yesterday, as a matter of fact, on this
11 particular subject, and he was in agreement
12 that he would like to serve an entire entity,
13 an entire county. And whether that be Lawrence
14 or Randolph, he would rather it be a whole
15 county.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you,
17 Eddie.

18 MR. DAN ELLISON: I am Dan Ellison, and I
19 chair the Election Commission from Lawrence
20 County. And I don't want to state a
21 preference, because Senator Tim Wooldridge is a
22 friend of mine, but we feel this does -- as so
23 stated prior to us in Randolph County, it does
24 dilute our voting process. We are split right
25 down the middle. So, this does confine us or

1 it does create a problem. Under the
2 circumstances, we really don't have any future
3 hope of pulling a senator from our county. And
4 I don't mean this in any way other than the
5 fact is, we are looking out for the interest of
6 our people in the county and their voting
7 power.

8 So, if there are -- and we understand, we
9 have just went through all this with our JPs,
10 the population balance and the percentage, and
11 et cetera, et cetera. We understand all that.

12 But if there is any way possible for you and
13 the Governor's staff and everybody else and Ms.
14 Sharon and Mark, if there is any way possible,
15 we would like to join this county back
16 together. It has been over 20 years that
17 it has been like this.

18 And as a commissioner, we have to go
19 one side for this, and one side for the other,
20 for the east and west. And it not only
21 creates -- it splits our people, too, in the
22 county. And that is something we have to
23 consider as our county judge and leaders and et
24 cetera of this county. We have to consider the
25 people's needs and desires. And I assure you,

1 their desire is to pull our county back
2 together. And I think the gentleman from
3 Randolph County hit upon it. He has lost a
4 small portion, we split ours right down the
5 middle. So, thank you for your time.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.
7 By the way, our staff was just telling us that
8 we think we can make that work. What everybody
9 has said, all the comments to this point. It
10 looks like we will have to double check the
11 numbers, but it looks like we can do that.

12 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Put all
13 of Lawrence into Ten, and Randolph into 11,
14 they think they can make that work.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: What about the other
16 way?

17 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Now,
18 Tim, you are getting picky now.

19 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: It does not work
20 the other way. That is the way that we had
21 looked at before, was the other way. But this
22 is the only way it looks like it works.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Because the
24 variance is too high?

25 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Right.

1 MR. OLAN REEVES: Yeah, the numbers are
2 too high.

3 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: The numbers don't work
4 the other way, but that works.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well, there
6 again, as we talk today before we leave,
7 we will see if we can get some consensus on
8 that about, you know, how that ought to -- how
9 that map ought to look.

10 MR. OLAN REEVES: Who is next?

11 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: (Inaudible.)

12 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Sorry.
13 What, did you say, Tim?

14 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I said that portion
15 there of Craighead, you will have to move that,
16 as well.

17 MR. OLAN REEVES: Right.

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well, you
19 could keep that. Let's see if we can get a
20 better zoom in on that.

21 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: That has got to
22 change, too, in order to get that.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Oh, it does?

24 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes. The numbers
25 don't work that way. He is trying it the other

1 way now, and it doesn't work.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: One of the
3 greatest differences in today and ten years ago
4 is what you all are seeing on this screen right
5 here. Now that we have software that can
6 crunch all the census data and put it on maps
7 for us all the way down to --

8 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:
9 Streets.

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: -- very
11 small voting segments, streets, et cetera. It
12 really lets us, you know, work out issues like
13 that fairly efficiently.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: You are showing it in
15 11 now, right?

16 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That is 11, correct,
17 the way you have got that?

18 MR. OLAN REEVES: What happens is, when
19 you do it that way, it makes Senate District
20 Ten just way below the variance, it is too low,
21 because it is down to 71,000, and you have got
22 to have at least 72,500.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And the
24 deviations that are six percent of that.

25 MR. OLAN REEVES: And six percent is

1 too low.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: It has got
3 to be within five percent.

4 MR. OLAN REEVES: It has got to be within
5 five percent.

6 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Can you do it like
7 that? Say that again. I didn't understand it.

8 MR. OLAN REEVES: The reason -- I mean,
9 just looking at the numbers right there,
10 if Randolph County is in Ten, it makes the
11 variance for Ten too low. It is six percent
12 below, and it can't be six percent. Five is
13 the lowest it can go. It is 71,704, it has got
14 to be at least 72,500.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Are you pulling in the
16 corner of Randolph County you have got split
17 now, are you pulling that back into 11 or are
18 you leaving that out?

19 MR. OLAN REEVES: He took the -- what
20 he did was, he took the whole county of
21 Randolph and put it in Ten and the whole county
22 of Lawrence and put it in 11.

23 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Can you switch it
24 to the way it is going to be -- or the way
25 it -- the other way that it will work?

1 MR. OLAN REEVES: The other way back?
2 Which puts Lawrence in Ten and Randolph in 11.
3 And the only reason that one precinct in
4 Craighead County needs moved out is because
5 Craighead County is 82,000, and you can't have
6 a Senate district that has 82,000.

7 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: That is
8 too high.

9 MR. OLAN REEVES: That is the only reason
10 that precinct is out.

11 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That is the Bono.

12 MR. OLAN REEVES: It would be nice if
13 we could, but it just makes this one, 14, too
14 big. Okay. See, that way, Ten is -- hang on.
15 Ten is going to be 75,500 and 11 is 73,100.
16 11 is a little over, but it is within the
17 variance. Ten is right on the money almost.
18 So, if we do that, that is --

19 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That is a number
20 figure?

21 MR. OLAN REEVES: That is strictly
22 numbers. That is probably the way it is going
23 to have to be if we put the counties whole,
24 strictly because of the numbers, because of
25 what is in the other counties to the west and

1 what is in the counties to the east. That
2 makes both districts within the variance, and
3 14, as well.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Okay.

5 MR. OLAN REEVES: So, we will
6 certainly take a look at that. But after this,
7 I mean, if you want to send us your
8 preferences, E-mail us, call us, I mean, it is
9 not a problem, or you can tell us right now.
10 If you don't want to --

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes. And
12 we will be here for a few minutes after
13 we close.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: But you are telling us
15 the numbers won't work the other way?

16 MR. OLAN REEVES: The numbers don't
17 work the other way.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: So, if you can't
19 make the numbers work, you can't go that way,
20 can you?

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well, I
22 think what we are saying is, to keep the county
23 whole.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That is what I am
25 saying.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Yes. If you
2 want to break the county and pick up some
3 precincts and move them, that will probably
4 work, won't it?

5 MR. OLAN REEVES: Right. I mean, our
6 thinking, I think, was that Lawrence County was
7 already split. We just left it split. But I
8 mean, if you all are telling us you want the
9 counties whole, there is really only one way it
10 will work.

11 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I think the
12 consensus of our group is, we want that county
13 all together --

14 MR. OLAN REEVES: Whole?

15 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: -- regardless of where
16 we go.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

18 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Is that correct?

20 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Yes.

21 MR. OLAN REEVES: Duly noted.

22 COURT REPORTER: I don't know who those
23 people are.

24 MR. OLAN REEVES: That is all right.

25 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Thank

1 you, Judge.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: You are welcome.

3 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: We are
4 getting a lavalier mike for Butch. Anybody
5 else? Any other comments?

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Who else
7 wants to get up on the microphone and --

8 MR. DALE HAAS: Hey, Sharon?

9 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Over
10 here.

11 MR. DALE HAAS: As the county judge
12 from Craighead, I sure don't want to give
13 up Senator Wooldridge unless I have to,
14 but that -- and I don't know why he didn't jump
15 up to his feet. I know the mayor of Bono over
16 there is chomping at the bits to say something.

17 But with Senator Wooldridge representing Bono
18 on so many projects for so long, every since he
19 has been there, he has been faithful for us,
20 and we would hate to give him up.

21 The way it was prior, when you all
22 first walked in, Craighead County was satisfied
23 with that, to my knowledge. And so, if it
24 could go back the way it was, with us keeping
25 Wooldridge and Bono, we would definitely

1 appreciate that. I understand the other
2 county's plight, however, we have got some
3 major projects and we are growing, as you all
4 know, in leaps and bounds. And the Senator has
5 worked closely with our other Senator in
6 getting us to where we are at today. And
7 we would like to keep it the way it was.

8 MR. OLAN REEVES: Sir, what was your name?

9
10 MR. DALE HAAS: Dale Haas.

11 MR. OLAN REEVES: That was Dale Haas.

12 MR. DALE HAAS: The county judge in
13 Craighead.

14 MR. OLAN REEVES: County judge of
15 Craighead County. I am sure we can look
16 at that, I just don't know about the precinct
17 numbers.

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Dale, that
19 is consistent with what we have been hearing
20 from some of the local leadership in Bono, that
21 they are very comfortable with Senator
22 Wooldridge and would love to maintain that
23 relationship. So, we are sensitive to that.

24 MR. DALE HAAS: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. OLAN REEVES: Representative Allison?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Apparently,
2 the --

3 MR. JERRY ALLISON: Glad to have you
4 all here in Jonesboro, Northeast Arkansas,
5 Craighead County. But just like the county
6 judge was saying, if there had to be a move
7 made, if there had to be a move made, then we
8 would like to keep -- you know, make Craighead
9 County whole. I don't know whether you can do
10 that with the -- you know, if we did have
11 to lose Senator Wooldridge, you know, we would
12 like our Senator Cash to be able to have the
13 whole county. I don't know whether with your
14 numbers, that it would work out like that.

15 And Senator Wooldridge has done an
16 outstanding job representing that area, and it
17 is really just kind of -- he is kind of a notch
18 out there. But I, like everyone else, would
19 like to see Lawrence County and Randolph County
20 united, and because it does confuse people when
21 they go to vote. Even though they have been
22 divided before, we would like to put them
23 together to bring -- and it really brings more
24 of a stronger community together. And I
25 realize that.

1 But the fact is, if we have to do
2 something with, you known, the Bono area, you
3 know, I know that it would -- the appropriate
4 place would be to go to Craighead County, but I
5 would hate to see that Bono would be put over
6 into District 11, because it would be --
7 their representative there would be
8 Representative Miller, and I think that would
9 just be a little bit too far away for quality
10 representation. Thank you.

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

12 MR. RAY KIDD: I am Ray Kidd, I am a
13 politician-want-to-be, you might say. I am a
14 candidate for the newly formed District 76.
15 And during the last few weeks, I have had
16 several E-mails back and forth to the
17 committee. I would like to give thanks,
18 thanks, number one, for the computers you all
19 use, thanks to the committee and Mark Pryor,
20 Sharon Priest, and former member Ron Maxwell.
21 And I think you all have done an outstanding
22 job. And I, for one, don't think it could be
23 any better. Thank you.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

25 MR. OLAN REEVES: Anybody else? Okay.

1 Back to you, Madam Chairman.

2 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: All
3 right. Well, with that, I think you have heard
4 sort of the run-down of what we are trying to
5 do. We have two more days of hearings, one --
6 we have one more hearing today, we have three
7 on Thursday, and two next week, one in Garland
8 County and one in Pulaski County.

9 At that point, the plan -- the plans
10 of the staff are to go back and make changes
11 that we can, and bring it back to the Board of
12 Apportionment to vote on by Labor Day. We want
13 to get the plan filed by Labor Day, so that
14 that gives everybody plenty of time to look it
15 over, probably, I would say, and let the
16 lawsuits begin. But hopefully --

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Don't say
18 that.

19 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:
20 Hopefully, we would like to think that by this
21 point we will have everybody satisfied that can
22 be satisfied. But in any event, it is our plan
23 to try to get this done by Labor Day.

24 So, with that, please know that if
25 you think of anything after you leave today or

1 any other comments, please feel free to call
2 the reapportionment office or call any of our
3 offices and let us know what your other
4 thoughts are. And with that, please know that
5 Mark and I will be around.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL PRYOR: Let me say a few
7 words.

8 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Yes.
9 Before that, I will go back to Mark.

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I want to
11 thank you all for being here. And I want
12 to give a special thanks to the Arkansas State
13 University for hosting today. This is a great
14 facility. It is the first time I have ever
15 been here. And I know it is exciting, it is
16 new, and we just appreciate you all having us
17 here. It is an absolutely beautiful facility,
18 and we just walked around a little bit before
19 the meeting started.

20 But what I would encourage everybody to do
21 who is interested, is stick around for a few
22 minutes, our staff is here, we have got
23 everything set up. Between Butch and Larry and
24 Tim and everybody else who is here, our staff,
25 we can -- we would love to get more detailed

1 input from you all about the county breakdown,
2 and maybe from the incumbents who are here, and
3 see, you know, how we can best resolve this for
4 all of the communities of interest. So, I want
5 to thank you all for being here and thank ASU
6 for having us.

7 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: And I,
8 too, would like to thank all of you for being
9 here. We are sorry that we kept you waiting.
10 And Mark and I will be around to visit for
11 however long it takes. Mark and I like being
12 the last people to leave. Thank you.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

14 (WHEREUPON, at 2:57 p.m., the taking
15 of the above-entitled proceeding was
16 concluded.)

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18
19
20
21
22 SIGN-IN SHEETS.

MAPS.

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss.:
 COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, DONNA K. PETRE, Certified Court Reporter and notary public in and for the County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, duly commissioned and acting, do hereby certify that the above-entitled proceedings were taken by me in Stenotype, and were thereafter reduced to print by means of computer-assisted transcription, and the same truly, and correctly reflects the proceedings had.

WHEREFORE, I have subscribed my signature and affixed my notarial seal as such notary public at the City of Little Rock, County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, this the 25th day of July, 2001.

DONNA K. PETRE, CCR
 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
 PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 LS CERTIFICATE #125

My Commission Expires:
 August 4, 2010.

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